

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

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ALICJA KWADE

In Cerchi

23/09/2023 - 14/01/2023

Opening on Saturday 23 September 2023, via del Castello 11, 4-9pm. The gallery is open from Monday to Sunday 10am - 1pm / 2pm - 7pm.

Galleria Continua is pleased to introduce its presentation *In Cerchi* by Alicja Kwade. Kwade's work confronts scientific and philosophical principles by dismantling the confines of perception. Her work can be viewed as a means of posing questions, while also providing responses to the enigmatic nature of the world itself. Kwade once said "My freedom as an artist is not having to prove anything. I propose material hypotheses without claims of proof - formal sculptural attempts at understanding." This underlying curiosity and determination to fathom intricate inquiries define her artistic approach, transforming her work into a realm of exploration where established knowledge and shared preconceptions can be examined and challenged.

As the title suggests, *In Cerchi* centres on the theme of the circle, which embodies concepts of change and renewal, highlighting

the artist's profound interest in transformation. In the gallery's tower hangs *SUPERHEAVY SKIES*, a monumental mobile featuring rocks suspended by mirror-polished stainless-steel structures that float within the space, bringing acute attention to the operations of gravity and the precarity of its states of equilibrium. Slowly revolving around itself, as if in a state of slow motion, lightness and weight symbiotically collaborate, extending its influence to anyone who steps into its orbit. The globe is a recurring motif in *SIÈGE DU MONDE (II)* and *MONO MONDE*. Perfectly round stone spheres sit above, underneath, and next to two weighty chairs cast in bronze, alluding to the planets within our solar system and the connection to our human existence. For Kwade, the boundless expanse of the universe serves as the ultimate scale of abstraction. *SATURNMELONE* exemplifies the blurring of boundaries between the ordinary

and the abstract. At first glance, it appears as a common cantaloupe melon, but on closer inspection we notice its stripes running horizontally instead of vertically. This painted bronze sculpture humorously emulates the outer surface of a celestial body, encouraging contemplation of the intricate patterns and forms that define our universe.

Alicja Kwade (1979, Katowice, Poland) lives and works in Berlin. Her work investigates and questions universally accepted notions of space, time, science, and philosophy by breaking down frames of perception in her work. Kwade's multifaceted practice spans sculpture, public installation, works on paper, videos, and photography.

This autumn, Alicja Kwade will open a solo exhibition at Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg. Most recently, she has exhibited in the following museums, among others: BerlinischeGalerie-Landesmuseum für Moderne Kunst, Berlin, Germany; Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany; MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, USA; Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, USA; Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, Finland; Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark; Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland; YUZ Museum, Shanghai, China; Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK; Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany; Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover, Germany; und Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany.

In 2019, Kwade was commissioned to create a monumental installation

for the Metropolitan Museum in New York. She has also participated in international group exhibitions and biennials with site-specific installations: Place Vendome, Paris, France; Desert X AlUla, Saudi Arabia; Elevation 1049, St. Moritz + Gstaad, Switzerland; Helsinki Biennale, Helsinki, Finland; Desert X, Coachella Valley, USA; La Biennale di Venezia, 57th International Art Exhibition, Venice, Italy; and Public Art Fund, New York, USA.

Kwade's works are part of numerous private and public collections worldwide, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, USA; LACMA - Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark; Mudam - Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg; mumok - Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, Austria; and Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China.

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